

FARR ON SCROFULA.

A Treatise
ON THE
NATURE OF SCROFULA,
IN WHICH

An Attempt is made to account for the Origin of that Disease,
on new Principles, illustrated by various Facts and Observa-
tions, explanatory of a Method for its complete Eradication,
&c.

BY WILLIAM FARR,

(Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London),
HALF MOON STREET, PICCADILLY.

Boards.

A
TREATISE
ON THE
NATURE OF SCROFULA,
IN WHICH,
AN ATTEMPT IS MADE TO ACCOUNT
FOR THE
ORIGIN OF THAT DISEASE,
ON
NEW PRINCIPLES,

Illustrated by Various Facts and Observations,
EXPLANATORY OF A METHOD
FOR ITS

COMPLETE ERADICATION;
TOGETHER WITH AN APPENDIX, CONTAINING SEVERAL
INTERESTING CASES,

BY WILLIAM FARR, SURGEON.

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, LONDON, AND LATE
SURGEON TO THE HOSPITAL IN THE ISLAND OF ANHOLT.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR W. WRIGHT, 46, FLEET STREET.

1820.

95400

HENRY TREATISE

ON THE

NATURE OF SCROFULA



TO ORIGIN OF THAT DISEASE

COMPLETE ERADICATION

I am, WILLIAM FARR, SURGEON

TO
HENRY CLINE, ESQ. F. R. S.

&c. &c. &c.

SIR,

HAVING prepared the following TREATISE ON SCROFULA for the press, detailing a method for more effectually curing that disease, as well as attempting to establish a new theory for its origin, to whom can I dedicate it with more propriety, than to him who taught me the first principles of Surgery?

Believe me, Sir, I am fully sensible of the obligation you have conferred on me, in thus permitting me to affix your name to this desultory and imperfect production; convinced that your well-earned celebrity in an arduous profession will give an additional weight to my opinions.

I cannot omit this opportunity of publicly acknowledging the many kindnesses with which you have invariably been pleased to honour me; for these I shall ever retain a most grateful remembrance, and remain, with sentiments of the utmost respect,

Sir,

Your much obliged,

And devoted Servant,

WILLIAM FARR.

No. 43, Half Moon Street, Piccadilly,
January 29, 1820,

HENRY CLINE, 120, 1, R. 2.

St. Louis, Mo.

218

HAVING prepared the following Treatise on
SCROFULA for the press, thinking a method for
more effectually curing that disease, as well as
applicable to establish a new theory for the origin,
to whom can I dedicate it with more propriety,
than to him who taught me the first principles of
Medicine and who I am fully sensible of the obli-
gation you have conferred on me, in this regard.
I am sure that your name to this treatise and the
great probability contained that you will confer
celebrity on an author whose profession will give an ad-
ditional weight to his opinions.
I cannot omit this opportunity of publicly
acknowledging the many kindnesses with which you
have from time to time pleased to favour me, for these
I shall ever value as most grateful remembrance,
and remain, with sentiments of the highest respect,

Yours much obliged,
and devoted servant,
WILLIAM FARR.

No. 43, New Market Street, Philadelphia,
January 28, 1830.

PREFACE.

THE unparalleled success which has attended the mode of treatment described in the following pages, and the many advantages I possessed under Mr. Brandish, whose practice in cases of Scrofula was most extensive; together with several years' experience subsequent to that period, will, I humbly hope, give me some claim to public confidence on the present occasion, and entitle my suggestions to a candid attention.

I should not, however, have ventured to present myself at the bar of criticism as an Author, knowing that men deservedly celebrated, and justly eminent in the profession have written largely on the Pathology of Scrofula: yet, with all due submission to their judgment and talents, I think I may safely presume to assert, that theory, rather than practice, has engrossed the attention

of preceding writers ; and little has been advanced in their works towards the institution of any clear and practicable system for effectually eradicating the disease. This, I trust, will fully plead my excuse, for entering into the discussion of a subject of such importance, and so immediately connected with the welfare and happiness of society.

Nevertheless, in doing so, I am thoroughly conscious of the difficulties I have to combat, and the disadvantages I labour under, as well from the reserve with which any new practice is received by a considerable part of the profession, as the prejudices entertained by some of its members, prematurely considering any deviation from the beaten track as an unjustifiable innovation on established rules.

It is not, however, without mature reflection, long practice, and attentive observation, that I venture thus to obtrude my opinions on the notice of the public ; and I trust that the salutary purposes I am endeavouring to promote, will insure the kind indulgence of my readers to

the literary defects in this Essay, as I have been much more solicitous to merit their approbation by the elucidation of facts and solidity of reasoning, than for purity of style, or elegance of composition.

A TREATISE,

&c.

SCROFULA, King's Evil, (or Struma, as Celsus denominates it, whenever he speaks of the disease), is a term which may appear harsh and unmeaning to men accustomed to philological researches; and is only to be explained upon the very general grounds, that the ancients had a habit of applying words to demonstrate, by metaphor, existing appearances; such as the term Cancer, to characterize a certain tumor, the substance of which they conceived to resemble the body, and the varicose and obstructed veins the claws of the crab. The term King's Evil originated from the absurd notion of the disease being cured by the royal touch, and that opinion

had so far prevailed, that until the present royal family came to the throne, the possibility of curing it by such means, obtained implicit credit amongst the vulgar.

Cullen's definition, in his nosological arrangement of diseases, is " *Glandularum conglobatarum, præsertim in collo, tumores; labium superius et columna nasi tumida; facies florida, cutis lævis, tumidum abdomen.*"

In the present Treatise, I have no intention of entering into superfluous statements, or fruitless arguments, in support of any particular hypothesis, in order to explain why the disease is so often an apparently hereditary affection; for, on this head, I can safely aver that no age, sex, or temperament, under circumstances conducive to its action, can be said to be wholly exempt from a susceptibility of this malady; from the concurrent opinion of other authors, this assertion will, I am well convinced, bear a most extensive application.

In conformity to the custom observed by most authors, it may be expected, that I

should take a view of all causes operating on, or at all connected with, the production of Scrofula; and although I may have little new matter to offer, in short, nothing that has escaped the notice of other writers, with respect to remote causes, yet, I cannot pass them over in silence; at the same time, I shall abstain from entering minutely into the consideration of them. I will, however, first briefly enumerate some of the notions and theories that have been entertained concerning Scrofula.

Wiseman says, “ I shall endeavour to fix upon a peculiar acidity of the serum sanguinis, for my specific difference, and shall describe the King’s Evil to be a tumor arising from a peculiar acidity of the blood, which, whensoever it lights upon glandulæ, membrane, or muscle, it coagulates and hardens; when it mixeth with marrow, always dissolves it, and rotteth the bones.” *

Another theory runs thus:—“ Lymph, which is deposited by the exhalants in the

* Vide Wiseman’s Surgery, p. 248.

cavities of the body, occasionally becomes viscid; and that, when taken up in this state by the absorbent vessels, which communicate with those cavities, and is by them conveyed to the corresponding glands, it obstructs them, and thus produces Scrofula."

While a third writer asserts, that, "Scrofula arises from acrimony of the blood, which acts upon the bones and more solid parts of the body."

I shall not attempt to support the doctrines urged in aid of the preceding hypotheses, confident that their inapplicability to fact, not to use an harsher expression, is acknowledged and confirmed by the opinion and practice of the present day.

In considering the causes of this malady, I believe it to be a fact generally admitted, that extremes of either heat or cold, are equally free from the *materia morbi*; and, on the other hand, that low, damp, and moist situations are exceedingly favourable to its production; in proof of which, the virulence of Scrofula, if left to itself, will diminish in

a more elevated situation, under the general warmth of our summers. To prove the justice of this remark, I need only add, that, in climates where uniformity of temperature prevails, its existence is rarely to be met with.

It has been advanced by an author whose opinions are generally well grounded, and whose depth of reasoning is rarely surpassed, that derangement of the organs subservient to digestion, is the proximate cause of this disease. I am most happy in this opportunity of adding my humble testimony to the opinion of Mr. Carmichael, to whom I allude, provided that such derangement of the primæ viæ be accompanied by predisposing causes, whether originating in original tendency of corporeal habit, a moist and cold atmosphere, poor unwholesome diet, or want of exercise; and this I will endeavour to illustrate.

The physiology of no part of the human body is, perhaps, so little understood, as that of the mesenteric glands, particularly as to what functions are assigned them in the animal economy; although it is universally

acknowledged that some very material and important alteration is effected on the chyle, in its passage through them: what peculiar action does take place; whether it be by the superaddition of new matter, or the operation of some chemical change, is alike inexplicable; nor do we derive any light on the subject from the profound and accurate researches either of ancient or modern physiologists. There is no anatomist, who, in tracing the course of the lacteal vessels, from their origin in the villous coat of the intestines to their termination in the receptaculum chyli, has failed to encounter in the progress of his dissection, the direction of these vessels through one or more of the mesenteric glands: hence, it must be obvious to the merest tyro in physiology, that some important operation in the chylopoietic system is accomplished by this peculiar arrangement.

Reasoning from the fact I have just stated, may it not be inferred, that in all enlargements of these glands, without the existence of that morbid alteration of structure which would necessarily render them impervious,

such alteration of function exists, as by its action on the passing chyle, so materially changes its properties, as to lay the foundation for struma? This *materia morbi*, the offspring of such impaired action in these glands, though I do not class it in the number of specific poisons, as far as regards the production of a similar disease by inoculation, may, from its action upon the constitution of the individual, in whom it is generated, by inducing that diathesis so favorable to the existence of Scrofula, be considered at least an exciting, if not the proximate cause of the disease.

By some, hereditary predisposition has been said to consist in a peculiar structure of the whole body, or some particular parts of it, or that it is a something, the *rationale* of which no one can satisfactorily explain; but, that it is transmitted from parents to their offspring, and constitutes the *sine qua non* of the malady. I certainly do not consider its agency as bearing that extreme application which some are willing to admit, namely, that it should necessarily follow, that children whose parents have been afflicted

with the disease, must suffer in consequence of their unfortunate title to it from inheritance; neither am I more disposed to coincide in opinion with those, who admit the influence of hereditary disposition, and assert that its effects should be uniform in all children of the same family; but that it does operate in a modified sense, the following narration will sufficiently demonstrate.

Some years ago, I visited, by accident, a family in a village of Gloucestershire. The situation in which they resided was low and damp, and fevers of the typhoid type were exceedingly prevalent in the neighbourhood. The father, in his youth, had been much reduced by mesenteric disease, and scrofulous enlargements of the cervical glands; which, however, after a lapse of years, and as he approached manhood, gradually subsided; when he became, to all appearance, perfectly free from the disease. The mother possessed naturally a vigorous and healthy constitution. Their issue consisted of six children, two of whom had fallen victims to protracted Scrofula, which in both had been preceded by tumid abdomen, marasmus, and other dia-

gnostic marks of diseased mesentery. The health of the third was much impaired at the time I saw them, from caries of the lower jaw, with enlargement and ulceration of the submaxillary gland of the left side. These well-defined characteristics of Scrofula, as I learned from the mother, had been ushered in, as in the cases of the former children, with similar derangement of the chylopoietic viscera. The remaining three children had been casually removed to more salubrious situations, and hitherto they have escaped the malady. It may not, perhaps, be deemed irrelevant to state their ages; that of the eldest is now 23, the second 19, and the youngest 13 years; as from this circumstance, some conclusive facts may be deduced, the disease having terminated in the three children first spoken of, before any of them had attained the thirteenth year. The case of the third child is detailed in the Appendix, in which it will be found, that even under circumstances so unfavorable, in many material points, the plan of treatment I am about to recommend, does not fail to be attended with success.

I have adduced this striking instance, founded on hereditary predisposition, in preference to many others that I have witnessed, as better calculated to evince the decided advantage resulting from a removal from the immediate seat of the exciting cause; and under the impression that as a precautionary measure of some moment, it may not be deemed frivolous by the profession, or disregarded by families in which hereditary susceptibility exists.

Scrofula, for the most part, attacks those of fair complexion, light blue eyes, and light coloured hair; still, instances are not wanting of some of dark complexions, black eyes and hair, and opposite states of the body in every respect, being the subjects of it; and those last are, by far, the most difficult of cure. This species of idiosyncrasy, or exception to that state of the constitution more peculiarly predisposed to Scrofula, is very rare. I do not recollect to have seen more than two instances, and in both of these, the glandular system was not the part first affected. It commenced by enlargements of the joints of the fingers, and metacarpal

bones, and extended its ravages to others of greater magnitude.

Enlargements of the thyroid gland have been deemed by some to be of a scrofulous nature: I confess myself to be of a different opinion: Bronchocele, in this country, may be said to be almost endemial to Derbyshire; hence, in common language, its name of Derbyshire neck; whilst, in other parts of England, it is scarcely known; nor is it to be found in many situations favorable to the production of Scrofula.

There is another species of enlargement of the cervical glands, which appears to extend by continuity of surface, and in many instances they attain an enormous size. I think that in the cases which have come under my observation, I have generally been enabled to trace its commencement from the thyroid gland, or, in other words, that an incipient bronchocele has appeared to be the nucleus of the diseased glandular mass, although it does not seem to be peculiar to those situations which are said to give rise to bronchocele; for I have detected its existence in

places where that disease is rarely, if ever, known, yet I have never seen this affection, excepting in females.

In the dissection of one case, that of a fine young woman, about 21 years of age, where the patient's death was occasioned by the pressure of the tumor upon the internal jugular vein, causing apoplexy, the thyroid gland itself was small, when compared with the magnitude of the adjacent glands, the bulk of which was evidently greatest, in proportion to their proximity to the thyroid; the disease extending through the whole chain of lymphatic glands on the right side of the neck, into the very cavity of the thorax. This patient suffered exceedingly, at different times, from excessive dyspnœa, which was generally relieved by extracting blood from the seat of the disease: the difficulty of breathing might be supposed, *à priori*, to have resulted from some mechanical pressure of the tumor upon the trachea; but dissection afterwards proved, that no such pressure existed, and that the calibre of the trachea was in no respect diminished; the bulk of the glandular mass being situated more to the right side of the

neck. May we not infer that the cause of this dyspnœa originated from pressure upon the nerves connected with the organs of respiration; and that the local blood-letting relieved it by emptying the over distended vessels, and thus removing the temporary impediment to the free performance of the proper functions of these nerves?

In another case, of a tall young female, about the same age, of a spare habit of body, which is no less remarkable for its termination by metastasis, than as affording a further proof in corroboration with the former, of its being a disease *sui generis*; the glandular tumor in the neck was of an enormous size: the usual local remedies were adopted; viz. leeches, blisters, rubefacients, &c., burnt sponge being at the same time exhibited internally. After persevering in these means, until by the undiminished size of the tumor, they clearly manifested their inability to cope with so formidable a disease, they were consequently discontinued, and after the lapse of some months, the disorder subsided spontaneously, at which time the patient was attacked with acute inflammation of the hip joint;

this, however, yielded to copious bleedings from the inflamed part, often repeated, with the assistance of a caustic issue behind the trochanter. The unfortunate young woman, however, had scarcely recovered from her lameness, in consequence of the affection in her hip, when she became the subject of pneumonic inflammation, which, in spite of all measures employed to counteract it, soon terminated in confirmed phthisis, which eventually destroyed her. I have no hesitation in pronouncing this disease, in these two cases, not to have been scrofulous, no less from the circumstance of its being exempt from the suppurative inflammation, than from the peculiar mode of its affecting continuous glandular surfaces.

It has been for ages, and is, I believe, now the prevailing opinion in the extra-professional world, that this disease can never be effectually eradicated from the system; and that, though persons have been cured, to all outward appearance, and continue free from it for the remainder of their lives, yet, that they possess a latent power of propagating it to their next succeeding offspring, or chil-

dren's children. This too general, and erroneous opinion, I am fully prepared to controvert, from a variety of cases which have fallen under my observation during a period of sixteen years; in which time, several persons whom I have attended, afflicted with Scrofula, have been so far radically cured, that the disease has never re-appeared, either in themselves or their children, up to the present moment; and I know that many persons who have been patients of Mr. Brandish, have not only children, but those children are also married, and have issue now living, who are as free from Scrofula as those of the most healthy part of the community. If I were not fully aware of the truth of what I have just stated, I would not hazard an opinion upon a topic of such importance, by which I might implicate myself as a *particeps criminis*, in entailing much wretchedness on families, who might be influenced, by my assertion, to connect themselves with other families, who, at some period or other, had been subject to Scrofula.

It has been stated, especially, by Mr. Brandish, that this disease has very much increased within the last forty years; I con-

less I am of a different opinion ; for, how can this be the case, when the causes which tend to give it birth, at least in this country, are considerably diminished, by the draining and cultivating of immense tracts of land, which were formerly covered with bog and water, as well as the general adoption of a system of much greater cleanliness and comfort in the houses of the poor than formerly ; such situations, by the exertions and labour of man, have been not only rendered productive of the fruits of the earth, but infinitely less capable of causing disease ; and, as a proof, that disease generally, from the united influence of these several circumstances, is less destructive to the human race, the population of this country has much increased during a long and sanguinary war. If any further proof be required, I would refer my readers, not only to the Bills of Mortality, as far as regards the great cities, but to the discussions which are every day taking place amongst the most enlightened men of the present period.

Scrofula and Lues Venerea are said, by a writer on the former disease, to bear a close analogy. I am willing to admit this hypo-

thesis, inasmuch as that they are both constitutional, rather than local diseases; and can be radically cured only by constitutional treatment; in any other point of view, I conceive that the similarity must be lost; for, how can we associate a disease, to the action of which all persons are alike subject, with a disease originating in peculiarity of constitutional susceptibility to be acted upon by certain causes known to produce it, and incapable of being propagated by inoculation, which is the only means through which Lues Venerea is generated. But Scrofula was never known to be produced by the insertion or absorption of any poison or virus into the system. The glands, it is true, are affected in both diseases; and in Lues this affection arises from the irritation of the venereal virus transmitted by the lymphatics: the same result will occur in the axillary glands, from even pricking the finger with a brass pin; and in the inguinal glands, from a thorn sticking in the foot: in both cases, the irritation is conveyed along the absorbent vessels to the glands; but neither of these causes will produce scrofulous glandular enlargement, nor is the same remedy,

viz. Mercury, (exhibited so as to affect the system,) applicable in both diseases.

I would now say something concerning regimen, as regards diet, exercise, clothing, &c.; and also of debility, however induced; whether the effect of idiopathic fever, or succeeding more particularly to fevers of the eruptive kind.

First, then, of the plan to be observed in the rearing of infants. I would recommend that the children of scrofulous parents should be suckled by a robust and healthy nurse, whose accouchement should be ascertained to have taken place at, or near the same time with that of the mother whose child she may undertake to suckle. I would most strictly inculcate the necessity of a careful attention to this point, in consequence of the varied properties human milk is known to possess, depending upon the different periods succeeding to parturition. As immediately on the birth of a child, the milk of the mother, from its peculiar power of increasing the peristaltic action of the bowels, so as to facilitate the ex-

pulsion of the meconium, we consider possessed of a certain purgative quality.—A change is in a short time observed in the human milk, which has been detected by chemical analysis, occasioned by the existence of phosphate of lime in a large proportion, with which the milk is more or less impregnated, according to a wise provision of nature, as the process of ossification advances.

The too common habit in nurseries, of feeding children almost exclusively on cow's milk, I most strenuously oppose; the impropriety of which is strikingly obvious, if we consider derangement of the *primæ viæ* as an exciting cause of Scrofula. The excessive tendency to coagulation, of this common article of diet, when brought in contact with any acid, is a frequent cause of disordered secretions, and morbid accumulations of *fœces* in the intestinal canal; in this way indirectly affecting the mesenteric glands, which, I have already endeavoured to prove, are the most usual seat of the disease.

The difference between human milk and that of the cow, previously to boiling, is not

generally understood to be so considerable, as it is in reality ; but it is a fact ascertained by Dr. Clarke, that the proportion of coagulum in the former is so very small, as scarcely to be detected. Dr. Clarke also notices, that he constantly observed cow's milk to acquire a greater degree of acidity in thirty-six hours, than human milk did in several days. The process of boiling materially alters cow's milk, in assimilating it to the nature of human milk, destroying thus its acescent tendency, although as a substitute for the latter, it cannot be too strongly reprobated.

The obvious advantages then resulting from a rigid adherence to the cautions just given, as to the diet and the selection of a nurse for an infant about to be subjected to these preliminary measures for effectually eradicating the seeds of this malady, founded on hereditary predisposition, are, I trust, sufficiently explained, without need of further comment on this part of the subject. The diet I recommend, should consist of farinaceous preparations, or that kind of food which generates least acid: sugar, honey, sweet-meats and all aliments containing a saccharine

principle should be wholly avoided, or but very sparingly used. In place of common bread, biscuit may be adopted with advantage, and eggs boiled so that the yolks retain their softness, with which the biscuit previously moistened may be mixed. Oatmeal in any culinary form that the child will take, as it possesses qualities of an antacid nature, and also pearl barley, form a good system of nutriment. As dentition advances, animal food may be given, taking care to select the white meats, in preference to those of a firmer and more dense texture. Vegetables should be little used, malt liquors avoided; Madeira or Sherry Wine, largely diluted with water, if any stimulants are required, should be preferred. Great care should also be taken, not to give children large quantities of food at any one time, that the process of digestion may not be impeded by over-distention of the stomach. If, notwithstanding these precautions, any redundant degree of acidity is found to exist, small doses of calcined magnesia,* or even

* I prescribe the calcined, in preference to the carbonate of Magnesia, from the obvious inconvenience resulting to the exhibition of the latter in children, by the disengagement of carbonic acid gas; which, accumulating in the stomach and

lime-water may be mixed with the food. The clothing should partake more of flannel than is customary ; waistcoats and drawers of this article should be constantly worn : it is of much importance, also, to keep the feet warm. Their exercise, as they advance in life, should be of such a nature, as to put the abdominal, and other muscles more immediately connected with digestion, into action.

I propose now to direct the reader's attention to debility, more particularly that (as I before said) succeeding to fevers of the eruptive kind ; which fevers, and not the consequent debility for which I contend, have been considered by an author, in his treatise on this subject, as materially influencing its action. In speaking of the increase of Scrofula of late years, he observes ; "if I might venture a conjecture upon a subject which has puzzled the wisest of the medical profession, I should, in a great measure, impute its increase to the mode of treatment usually adopted in the small-pox, measles, and other epidemical disorders ; which, according to the present fashion, too

bowels, not unfrequently occasions diminution of the capacity of the thorax, thereby impeding the functions of the lungs.

strongly checks the eruptive fever, and prevents the pustules from making that kind appearance, which the system might probably require." And again he says, "I do not wish to be understood as asserting that inoculation for the small-pox is, of itself, the cause of Scrofula; but if you insert any virulent poison into the constitution, and nature makes an effort to get rid of it, by the means of an eruption, and such means are counteracted, I should be very apprehensive of the mischief that might ensue, and strongly suspect that virus so lurking in the constitution, might be a great cause of the complaint in question." He further adds, "I have often been induced to believe that scrofulous affections have followed the small-pox, from the mere circumstance of due preparation, before inoculation, having been too much neglected, and from purging physic having been omitted, after the complaint had subsided."

Are we then to infer from this reasoning that Scrofula following small-pox is a *vis medicatrix naturæ* to get rid of virus obnoxious to the system, rather than a disease incidental to its debilitating effects?

Or are we to consider an abundant crop of pustules in persons affected by small-pox as a *sine qua non* exemption from Scrofula? and that the present treatment of diseases of the order exanthemata, which modern physicians, made wise by the errors of their forefathers, have adopted, is founded in ignorance? and, that by thus giving this disease a milder form, we are only sowing the seeds of Scrofula?

To these several questions I answer in the negative: although scrofulous taint may supervene to all fevers of this class, yet I conceive it arises only from the debility unavoidably consequent to them, and not from the suppression of the eruption of variolous pustules; hence ensues laxity of the muscular coat of the intestines, derangement of the digestive organs, and impediment to the free exit of the perspirable matter from the surface. It would, therefore, in my opinion, be well for the practitioner to direct his attention to the due restoration of the functions of these several organs.

In answer to what the author, already quoted, says of preparing persons for inoculation;

by which he probably means a due administration of cathartic medicine, I shall only observe, that my experience, slight as it has been of late years in variola, proves to me the inutility of such measures for modifying the alarming symptoms of the disease; but, with respect to the exhibition of purgatives after the small-pox has subsided, I am more disposed to coincide with him; for I have frequently found the bowels in so torpid a state, as to favor the accumulation of redundant fœces, and morbid secretions; to prevent the absorption of which, and its consequent ill effects on the system, I generally prescribe some aperient medicine.

Few writers, that I know of, have noticed, as a frequent cause of Scrofula, external local injuries. That this, however, is the case I shall shew by some instances in the Appendix to this Treatise.

The effect of local injuries, under ordinary circumstances, it is not the purport of the present work to treat of; but I shall confine the enquiry and investigation to local injuries inflicted on individuals who may pos-

sess that peculiar temperament which predisposes to Scrofula, whether acquired by inheritance, or induced by residence in a cold moist atmosphere, or the combined influence of both, as well as facilitated in its action, by other exciting means. Under one of these remote causes, or their combined influence, where the injury occurs immediately over joints or bones, more exposed to external mechanical violence, from being less surrounded by muscles, &c. than others, the first appearance indicating strumous inflammation, is most commonly a thickened periosteum; which, in defiance of any local remedies, such as the application of leeches or blisters, in process of time advances to supuration, and from its proximity to the bone, caries supervenes, with sinuous ulcers and repeated abscess, confirming more and more its true characteristic form of Scrofula. I have tried the practice recommended, and which, in many cases, is undoubtedly attended with beneficial results, of dividing the periosteum with a scalpel, after the failure of other means which experience naturally suggests in such cases; but, when the Scrofulous Diathesis prevailed, as was evident from some

existing circumstance or other, the practice invariably failed; the ulcer succeeding the division of the soft parts, assuming a foul and sloughing aspect, and denudation of the bone occasioned by copious suppuration, and extensive destruction of the adjacent parts, are the general result. In this advanced stage then, local means cease to be of any considerable utility, and constitutional treatment (of which more will be said hereafter) can alone be relied on, for checking the further ravages of the malady.

In cases where the joints are the seat of the disease, arising also from external injury, where local remedies alone, as in Scrofulous Periostitis, are used, the disease rapidly gains ground; and I have seldom found that the powerful aid (under ordinary circumstances) of local blood-letting, blisters, issues, and all the common train of topical applications, are of any decided advantage, when not combined with the constitutional treatment I have laid down in this essay.

In the treatment of diseased joints, I do

not attach that importance which many members of the profession appear to do, to the ascertaining whether the disease has advanced so far as to affect the cartilages with ulceration ; or whether it is simply confined to thickening of ligaments, or inflammation of the synovial membrane ; for, unless actual suppuration be established, I pledge myself, that the same *ratio medendi* is applicable to all these cases, both in respect to local and constitutional remedies.

Climate, and want of due exercise, I have already noticed, and endeavoured to prove, that low and marshy situations have an extraordinary tendency to produce this disease, as well as countries liable to sudden changes of temperature.

It must be evident to the most superficial observer, who admits that the digestive organs are at all concerned in the production of Scrofula, that want of due exercise must be included in the catalogue of causes ; for, unaided by that first requisite to health, the organs destined to carry on digestion, will

perform the office assigned to them imperfectly and ineffectually. This, conjoined with a life devoted to sedentary occupations, is one of the many effectual impulses given to the disease. Such a mode of existence rarely fails to influence the biliary system in particular: hence may, perhaps, be traced the reasons which actuated the fathers of medicine, to distinguish all classes of persons, by some peculiar temperament, and to associate the idea of derangement of the hepatic system with recluses, who were supposed to possess the biliary or melancholic temperament.

I have now detailed many of those scrofulous affections, to which children and persons in early life are subject, as well as some of the various causes which tend to produce them; more especially derangement of the chylopoietic viscera, when aided by predisposition; inducing, in the first place, disease of the mesenteric glands, and gradually communicating its baneful influence to the cervical and other superficial glands; and, unless checked in its progress, extending its effects

to parts of the body, of a more solid texture : viz. to the ligaments and bones.

I must here beg leave to remark, that those cases of swellings in the necks of infants, which are frequently deemed scrofulous, are decidedly otherwise : their rapid formation, together with a want of that external character which so distinctly marks of Scrofula, (I allude to the rocky and unequal surface which presents itself in indolent scrofulous enlargements of the superficial glands) and the ready disposition of the abscess to heal after its contents are evacuated, are to me strong proofs that they do not partake of a scrofulous nature. In addition to this, I must remark, that after opening these tumors, I have often seen the gland at the bottom of the cyst unaffected and unimpaired by the disease, which appeared to confine itself only to the proper cellular tunic of the organ.

I am willing to allow, that infants at the breast may have diseased mesenteric glands ; and that this may be deemed the incipient

stage; but I have seen few cases of confirmed glandular Scrofula, previous to the age of four years. I certainly admit the possibility of its existence at an earlier age, although I am inclined to think, that such cases must be extremely rare, as, during the many years I have more particularly attended to this disease, I must have met with more frequent instances. Those cases also, which are stated by a late writer on this subject,* as having immediately followed sudden exposure to cold, such as draughts of air through a carriage, sitting in a current of it, or accidentally passing the night in the open air, I am satisfied, cannot be considered of a scrofulous nature, as they are sudden in their formation, and the parts quickly resume their former healthy appearance.

I shall now proceed to introduce to the notice of my readers, a species of the disease, which, for the most part, attacks those of riper years, and which certainly has not its origin primarily in the glands; but commences its attack on the ligaments and bones.

* Vide Henning on Scrofula.

I have, indeed, seen cases of this kind in persons as young as eleven; and, in one instance, as late as fifty years of age; but the age at which they are most frequent, is from sixteen to twenty-six years. I have, at this moment, two of this latter description under my care; the age of the first is sixteen, the second twenty-four; and after the most minute investigation, and the strictest enquiry into these, and numerous others similar to them, that have fallen under my observation, I have not been able to trace any cause of the disease, either to external injury, or derangement of the *primæ viæ*. The *fœces* have been in all cases natural, the functions of the skin unimpaired, and there has been nothing like hereditary disposition to be detected. I had occasion to draw blood from the one aged twenty-four, in consequence of a slight pneumonic attack; the blood exhibited a full proportion of *crassamentum*, which is not the case with that taken from persons labouring under strumous affections, in whom predisposing causes may be found to exist.

To what cause then, are we to attribute

this species of Scrofula?—I confess myself wholly incapable of accounting satisfactorily for its production. The only circumstance that at all reconciles me to a want of knowledge on this point, is, that I have invariably treated it with the same success as other cases of struma.

GENERAL TREATMENT.

HAVING, in the preceding part of this Essay, enumerated the various causes productive of Scrofula, as well as the common seats of the disease, more especially known to be affected by derangement of the chylopoietic system considered as its proximate cause, I shall now proceed to lay before my readers that plan of treatment, which I have found so pre-eminently successful, both in arresting the further progress, and effectually eradicating a disease so destructive of human life, and inimical to the peace of numberless families. In discharging this duty, I wish to be understood, as excluding from its successful agency, the more protracted forms of visceral disease, which have been considered as having some relation to struma, and I more particularly disavow any curative properties for Scrofula, that it may, *à priori*, be supposed

to possess in tubercular phthisis. I mean to assert its efficacy more particularly then, as regards certain morbid changes acting upon the salivary and contiguous glands, characterized by a rocky or irregular surface, with abscess, or making its appearance by chronic inflammations, and thickening of ligaments and periosteum, with caries of bones. It will be recollected, that in the year 1811, a Treatise was published, entitled, "Observations on the Use of Caustic Alkali, for the Cure of Scrofula," by Mr. Brandish, whose success in treating this disease, was unquestionably much greater than any preceding or cotemporary practitioner. He states, that at the repeated solicitations of several professional friends, he was induced to publish the results of his practice, in order that through their means, its advantages should be extended to all classes of persons who might be suffering from that malady. Notwithstanding this candid exposition, it is very certain, however, that his plan of treatment did not meet with that liberal sanction, and general adoption, which its almost uniform success merited, and continues to merit; but, on the con-

trary, much prejudice was excited in the medical world, both against the author and his book. Whether this originated from his having so long deferred the promulgation of his practice in this branch of surgery, or from other causes, I cannot pretend to be acquainted. In conformity with the prejudice that existed, practitioners generally hesitated to acknowledge its efficacy in many well marked cases, that had been, from time to time, shown to them, and where the disease had been effectually cured by him. Nevertheless, it was adopted in a few instances only, and then speedily abandoned, as useless and ineffectual.

I shall, however, endeavour to account for this seeming want of efficacy, in means which have by him been employed with so much success, for the space of between thirty and forty years.

Finding that no other plan that had ever been suggested, was at all equal to that of the caustic alkali, when combined with mercurial friction, either in speedily arresting the

progress, or eventually eradicating the disease from the constitution ; and being, from my own experience, fully persuaded that its virtues had not been over-rated by Mr. Brandish, I determined to investigate the causes which have hitherto rendered it unsuccessful in the hands, and under the direction of other practitioners. Instances beside the present are not wanting to prove the fact of certain plans of treatment having succeeded under the immediate direction and use of those who were the inventors and propagators of them ; and their failure, when applied to general practice : to particularize such instances, would be occupying the time of my readers unnecessarily, as it is a fact universally known. The failure, then, which this plan of treatment may have experienced in the hands of other practitioners, I can account for, only by judging that their time is so much divided, that sufficient attention is not given to the action of medicines which are slow in their operation, and also from the almost invariable custom of prescribing the liquor potassæ of the London Pharmacopœia, as a substitute for the caustic alkali, without taking into consideration, that the one is

possessed of much more powerful alkaline properties than the other. In the caustic alkali of Mr. Brandish, the potash exists in a much more concentrated form, and the medicine altogether weighs two ounces in the pound heavier than the liquor potassæ of the Pharmacopœia; this should be strictly observed, and guide its preparation in the hands of chemists and others. Although the alkaline powers are so predominant in that used by Mr. Brandish, which is given in the mean dose, of from one to three drachms; the liquor potassæ, though so much more feeble in its properties, is rarely given in doses exceeding half a drachm, or a drachm.

In other instances, where practitioners have tried it for a considerable time unavailingly, the alkali has been so improperly prepared, that it was not possible to have known it to be the same medicine, either from its appearance or chemical properties. I recollect to have seen some of this description made at Bath and Bristol, in the use of which, patients had persisted for a length of time, without any seeming advantage. To these, and such like inadvertencies, aided by prejudice,

I greatly attribute these repeated failures; and though the difference between the two preparations is known to exist only in weight and degree of strength, that they do differ essentially I am fully persuaded; although it may not be discoverable by analysis, and will only be perceptible in their relative effects on the human body.

I candidly acknowledge that the *modus curandi* which I have uniformly pursued, has its basis in the treatment employed by Mr. Brandish; though materially varied, and adapted to the peculiarities of every case which it may become my duty to consider. Many practitioners have asked, and perhaps it may be considered a pertinent question; will not the influence by the alterative action of mercury, in the Scrofulous Diathesis, be attended with the same beneficial result when taken internally, rather than the unpleasant mode of introducing it by the absorbent vessels of the skin?—certainly not: for, independent of its disagreeing with the stomach and bowels, when used internally, it loses a power which, I have reason to imagine, it exerts upon the whole superficies of

the body, by continuity of surface, though its application and friction is limited to a small space, an arm or leg for example. The power I allude to consists in removing any obstruction to the free exit of the perspirable matter, by increasing the action of the capillary vessels of the skin universally ; thus preventing any inordinate accumulation of morbid secretions in the intestinal canal, which I know to be a most frequent consequence of disordered functions of the skin. To this I am inclined to attribute the advantages which an external employment of this mineral possesses over the internal use of it ; setting aside the debility induced in the stomach and bowels by its internal exhibition.

Much as I respect the authority of Mr. Brandish, I cannot help differing with that writer where he says, “ It struck me that mercurial ointment, properly rubbed in, would disperse scrofulous tumors, as it is known to do venereal ones.” Although I would not presume to question this gentleman’s perfect knowledge of the influence of mercury in Lues, he is, of course, aware,

that until the action of this mineral is established in the system, the venereal affection will continue with unabated violence. How then is it, that he says, in page 38 of his treatise, “During the use of the ointment, I would have him take a dose of salts every four or five weeks, or oftener, if he should find his mouth sore.” I think it is clear that the *modus operandi* of mercury in the case of Scrofula is not satisfactorily explained by this reasoning; for I am convinced it can be productive of beneficial results only when used as an alterative, by exciting the action of the liver, thereby inducing a healthful supply of bile; thus regulating the action of the bowels, and controlling the various secretions appropriated to chyliification.

Neither am I disposed to allow the salutary effect which Mr. Brandish supposes it to possess, from being rubbed in immediately below the seat of the diseased glands, that it may the more readily pass through them; nor do I think its action is the more effectually exerted in discussing venereal buboes, by being rubbed in close to the inguinal glands.

Before I enter upon the medical treatment, I shall say a few words more on diet, clothing, and exercise. I have before noticed them under the denomination of preventives, or in other words, to be employed as preservatives against Scrofula ; but they are alike important, and ought not to be dispensed with, in conjunction with other means for its removal ; and although I have succeeded in curing some bad cases, under every disadvantage with respect to diet and clothing, for the purpose of proving more strongly the powerful and indisputably good effects of the combined remedies I am about to point out, yet this is no reason why such efficient auxiliaries should be neglected, when they are within the reach of persons so afflicted. It has, I know, been stated by several practitioners, that the improved diet enjoined to patients, by Mr. Brandish, aided by country air and exercise, was more conducive to their recovery than the medicines he administered. As far as diet is concerned I have already denied the assertion, and when air and exercise are considered as materially expediting the cure, if not by their united aid actually effecting it, I can truly say, in answer to this, that during

the time I was dresser to Mr. Cline, I perfectly succeeded in curing two females, in the wards of Elizabeth and Mary, in Saint Thomas's Hospital, who had been long the subjects of this disease, which resisted the common means employed in hospital practice, and where good air and proper exercise, from the regulations of the establishment, were not to be obtained.* If, then, I have proved the success of this plan, under the accumulated disadvantages of situation, as before enumerated, as well as want of proper diet and clothing, and also good air and well regulated exercise, how can it be argued that, assisted by such advantages, it should fail in curing the disease, when even without them it is known to have succeeded.

The alkaline medicine, as I am accustomed to prepare it, varies only in a slight degree from the formula used by Mr. Brandish. I am in the habit of prescribing it to be taken twice a day, between breakfast and dinner, and at night on going to bed, in any vehicle

* Mr. Cline kindly permitted me to try Mr. Brandish's plan of treatment in these two cases, which, at that time, was unknown to the profession generally.

that the patient may think most palatable, provided it does not interfere with its chemical properties.

To children, from four to six years old, I generally give one drachm by measure; from six to eight, one drachm and a half; from eight to fifteen, two drachms; from fifteen to eighteen, two drachms and a half, and to persons of mature age three drachms, and in some few instances even more. This, when compared with the small doses, in which even the liquor potassæ of the London Pharmacopœia is given, may, no doubt, be expected to create surprise in those who are unaccustomed to witness the exhibition of this medicine in the doses I have mentioned, for the cure of Scrofula; but I am warranted by experience to affirm, that no symptoms, denoting qualities hurtful to the system, either by excoriation of the mouth and fauces, arising from its action as a caustic, or pain in the stomach after it has been taken, denoting similar effects upon that organ, have ever been observed by me. It acts as a diffusive stimulus to the whole frame, increasing slightly the action of the heart and arteries,

yet not after the manner of alcohol, disproportionately to the powers of the system ; but so uniform and correspondent to the action of the whole body, that no subsequent depression or languor is ever experienced ; contrary to what takes place, when the circulation has been rendered more vigorous from the exhibition of stimuli, which have for their base alcohol. In persons whose biliary secretion is either deficient in quantity, or impaired in quality, from the absence of its alkaline properties (which it is allowed to possess), and thus becoming unfit for the assistance which, in health, it affords to the concoction of the aliment, and in separating the chyle and excrement, thus facilitating the expulsion of the latter from the intestines, the alkali is essentially serviceable, both as a temporary substitute for the deranged secretion of the liver until such morbid action is altered by the exhibition of mercury, as well as in its own more immediately specific capacity of increasing the force of the circulation, and invigorating the nervous system.

From this view of its operation in the cure of Scrofula, I am led to observe, that alka-

lies, in some shape or other, have been for a long period, the universal nostrums in all diseases of a strumous character: for instance, the muriate of lime, whose basis is an alkaline earth: calcined sponge, the active material of which is the soda contained in it. The volatile alkali also is recommended in a work by Mr. Armstrong; and numerous other remedies, differing only in their form and mode of preparation, but whose active material resides in some alkaline properties, have all had their day, but, with me at least, none have stood the test of experience in the same degree with that of the caustic alkali: its earlier or later efficiency in the disease, when aided by collateral means, becomes manifest, as that of other remedies is known to do in diseases of a different description. In these cases, besides the mercurial friction to be used, animal food, warm clothing, exercise, &c. are to be enjoined, to strengthen and invigorate the constitution, and thereby prevent that debility which so continually attends the subjects of this formidable disease.

In conformity with what my readers will naturally be led to expect, I shall now pro-

ceed to speak more at large of the mercurial friction. In a former page I stated it as my opinion, that the decided superiority of using mercury in this way, over its internal exhibition, appeared to me chiefly to consist in its action upon the skin, the deranged functions of which, in persons of a Scrofulous Diathesis, I have so often found to affect the secretions of the intestines. This is readily explained, from the vicarious relation which is well known to subsist between these parts.

For children, from four to eight years old, I direct five grains of the *unguentum hydrargyri fortius* of the London Pharmacopœia; from eight to twelve, eight grains; from twelve to fifteen, twelve grains; and from sixteen and upwards, from twelve to fifteen grains; which is to be rubbed in every night before going to bed; the friction to be continued, until no portion of ointment can be observed to stain a clean finger when applied to the part on which such friction has been employed. I am accustomed to direct the patient to wear a linen glove on the hand which has been used in rubbing in the ointment, which, of course, should be washed off in the

morning with warm water, and the arm or leg upon which the friction is made (for it is immaterial), should also be covered with a glove or stocking; but there is no absolute necessity for washing the parts rubbed, oftener than every third or fourth day; and here I would urge the propriety of the patient washing himself always during the use of the mercurial ointment, in water rather warm. In order to prevent the slightest induction of mercurial action in the system, I occasionally administer an aperient draught, composed of a solution of neutral salts, or a small quantity of rhubarb in powder.

I have found but little occasion to vary this constitutional treatment; it is true, I have sometimes discontinued it for a time, in order to try the effect of chalybeates, in cases more particularly where the joints are concerned, as well as other remedies which have been recommended as useful in this disease; but only in the more protracted forms of Scrofula have I adopted these means, in order to render the alkaline medicine and mercurial friction less familiar to the constitution, by a temporary discontinuance of their use.

LOCAL TREATMENT.

TO devise some local treatment for scrofulous abscesses and ulcers, more effectually to prevent the unsightly scars and cicatrices which so often follow the practice commonly resorted to for these complaints, has commanded my constant attention, from the commencement of my professional career up to the present moment; and, if the *ratio medendi* which, in my own hands, has been so successful in accomplishing this desirable object, shall be equally so in that of others, by securing the persons of females, more particularly, from the disgust with which some are accustomed to regard scars, and associate with them, ideas of family and hereditary disease; then, indeed, I shall be amply recompensed; and I most gladly embrace this opportunity of laying before my brethren, labouring in the vineyard of pathological research, the result of much solicitous inquiry on this subject, which I will briefly relate in the few remaining pages of this treatise.

In incipient enlargements of the glands, previous to ulceration, or the formation of matter, I direct the application of leeches, generally twice a week; after which, a solution of the muriate of ammonia in vinegar and water, varying the strength of it in proportion to the irritability of the surface to which it is to be applied. Under the use of the alkaline and mercurial treatment, if the patients are brought to me sufficiently early, these means very frequently succeed in checking the languid inflammation, at the same time slightly exciting the action of the absorbents; but it often happens, during the continuance of these topical remedies, that the enlargement becomes stationary. Under these circumstances, I blister the surface with the *emplastrum lyttæ*, and keep up a perpetual discharge from it by dressing it with the savine ointment, or what, I think, sometimes succeeds better, the *unguentum hydrargyri mitius*. It rarely happens that the diseased glands are in situations where much pressure may be exerted by compress and bandages equally applied to the seat of the affection, by which means the absorption of the effused lymph from the parenchymatous substance of the gland is

facilitated. The neighbourhood of the trachea and adjacent veins, are insurmountable obstacles to such a mode of treatment, when the disease is contiguous to these parts.

If resolution be not effected by the means above-described, and the inflammation proceed to the formation of abscess, I find no application equal to a common bread and milk poultice, applied thick, and entirely covering the diseased part; at the same time that this maturates the suppurative process, it renders the parietes of the abscess less liable to become affected by ulceration, when an opening is made into it for the purpose of evacuating its contents.

I decidedly prefer poultice to the many resinous balsams and other digestive plasters, as they are called, from the disposition I have found such means to possess of favoring ulceration of the soft parts. An opening should be made with a common bleeding lancet into the abscess, before absorption, from pressure of the contained matter, shall have rendered the parietes of the cyst so thin, that ulceration of more or less extent, must be the inevitable

consequence, from the weak living principle such parts possess being completely isolated from the main source, so that the common *vis vitæ* cannot be exerted in effecting union of the puncture by the first intention.

When the abscess (whatever be its extent) is relieved of its contents, compresses of lint should be applied, so as to obliterate entirely its cavity, by bringing the sides in apposition; over these a calico bandage, moderately tight; and although I seldom succeed in curing the abscess, from the first trial by compress, yet the sac gradually diminishes until, by repeated application, it disappears altogether. I have sometimes found lime-water, injected into the cyst, after the evacuation of its contents, greatly to facilitate the cure, by slightly inflaming its sides, and superseding the diseased action; but much discrimination is requisite in determining when this, though so mild an injection, may be used, from the extreme disposition of the surface to ulcerate, when any stimulus beyond its weak powers of resistance is applied.

In applying the bandage, much caution is

necessary, that too great pressure be not employed ; for ulceration is often induced from this circumstance.

When the suppuration has advanced so rapidly, that little more than common cuticle intervenes between the interior of the abscess and the surface, it is better that a small opening should be made at the most prominent point, with the *potassa fusa* : this will, in the end, leave a much smaller cicatrix than if the abscess be left to nature's only resource, ulceration. Under these circumstances also, a slight compress and bandage expedites the healing process after the separation of the eschar.

I cannot too severely deprecate the practice of dilating scrofulous sinuses, of much extent, with the knife ; the exposure of the inner surface does not dispose it to granulate, as it rarely fails to do in sinuses succeeding common phlegmonic inflammations ; but an obstinate ulcer with loose and often irregular edges is the common result of such practice ; in the disease we are treating of, I have sometimes seen the ulcer assume the phagedenic character, and, even in the best cases, a fright-

ful cicatrix is unavoidable. Instead then of exciting the patient's alarm and dread at the sight of the scalpel, when slightly stimulating injections, compress, and bandage, have been unsuccessfully used, I draw a seton through the sinus, and thus, by much milder means, and in a shorter space of time, the cavity becomes obliterated by an effusion of coagulable lymph thrown out by the excited exhalants.

When the joints are the seat of recent scrofulous inflammation, depleting measures by blood-letting, and reducing the temperature by cold applications, should be adopted : blisters should also be employed, and these are better when applied near, that is to say, a few inches from, the immediate seat of the affection ; thus enabling the surgeon to direct his other remedies, as circumstances may indicate, immediately to the disease, while he at the same time keeps down the inflammation, by a discharge from the skin. The pain is seldom so excessive, that poultices become necessary as palliatives ; which, I admit, are often useful in phlegmonic inflammation, to relieve the tension of the overcharged capillary vessels ; but, after the abstraction of blood by cupping or leeches, I

find cold applications decidedly more serviceable. When the inflammation has been subdued by these means, and little remains but thickening of the superincumbent parts, strips of Baynton's plaster, accurately applied, from the superior to the inferior part of the joint ; or in place of this, strips of the *emplastrum saponis*, or the *emplastrum hydrarg. c. ammoniac.* securing the whole with a proper bandage, will be found of the greatest advantage.

Should there be numerous sinuses, communicating with caries of the bones, either in the hand or foot, with much thickening of periosteum, or ligaments, the application of Baynton's plaster in strips equally around the whole joint, with small holes made to correspond to the orifices of the several sinuses, for the discharge of matter, may be employed with great advantage ; excepting, when a disposition to form abscess exists : then, a poultice should be immediately resorted to. Many cases of this description, which, in the ordinary way of treatment, would require so many months in bringing about exfoliations, &c., I can safely say have been cured in as many weeks, by a rigid adherence to this practice.

Rest, in the horizontal position, when the seat of the affection is in the lower extremities, cannot be too strongly insisted upon; and though it may be beneficial that the patient should occasionally be wheeled out in a garden-chair, yet on no account ought he to call into action those muscles connected with the diseased joint. It would be presumptuous in me to assert that such means are infallible in restoring all scrofulous subjects to their former health; for it may be very naturally asked, are all patients brought to their medical attendant, at a period of the disease, when such measures are efficient?—To such a question, of course I am prepared to answer in the negative, and I am ready to concur in the very natural inference, that Scrofula must occasionally be seen in all its proteiform shapes, with ulcers of various sizes in different parts of the body, conjoined with caries of the bones; but, in these confirmed states of the disease, constitutional means are alone to be relied on. Of topical applications, the mercurial ointments, either the blue ointment or that of the red oxyde, stand foremost on the list.

If I refrain from enlarging this Treatise to a more considerable size, it is not to be attributed to any deficiency of facts and materials, nor to any want of confidence in the expediency and safety of the system I recommend; but I content myself at present with giving to the public an unreserved summary of the general principles and practice, under which I have been uncommonly successful.

In the treatment of a disease which has perplexed the researches, and baffled the efforts of the most eminent writers and practitioners of Europe, the bold and confident invitations of an empiric might be not unlikely to gain attention from desponding sufferers. But, I should equally disdain to solicit practice in the dispensation of secret specifics, as to screen myself from the responsibility, which every medical man incurs, who inculcates the use of new and potent medicines. At the same time, it cannot fairly be denied, that the person who has, for many years, made them a leading subject of his study and observation, is most competent to form a judgment of their application and efficacy; and although they are certainly potent, I have not found them

dangerous, and I am confident that they will not be found so, by those who may have occasion to use them, if their exhibition be guarded by professional attention, discrimination, and skill.

APPENDIX,

CONTAINING SEVERAL CASES

ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE FOREGOING TREATISE.

IN detailing the following cases in an Appendix, I have been induced to prefer a selection of those in which the disease had attacked different parts of the body, in preference to adducing numerous others, where its effects were limited to the same parts; as well to avoid repetition, as for the purpose of more fully proving the success of the plan of treatment, in the varied forms assumed by this disease.

CASE I. (See page 8.)

Catherine A *****, a girl, nearly twelve years of age, of fair complexion, and delicate constitution, was affected with enlargement and ulceration of the submaxillary and conti-

guous glands on the left side; these were also accompanied by caries of the lower jaw. I learned from her mother, that these affections had been preceded by, and attended with an enlarged abdomen: this was not so apparent at the time of my visit, as before; but, on enquiry, I found that the biliary secretion was defective; and that latterly marasmus had supervened. On such information, I was satisfied in my own mind that this was a well defined case of Scrofula, originating in derangement of the chylopoietic viscera; and I accordingly directed the mercurial friction and the alkali, conjoined with an occasional dose of rhubarb. Under this treatment, without any variation, excepting that I recommended an improvement in the diet, if such was within their means, the disease gradually subsided, and was ultimately removed.

CASE II.

John A*****, was similarly affected, with enlargement and ulceration of the parotid gland: this also had been preceded by mesenteric disease; but, as in the former instance, I was not consulted until the disease

had shewn itself by ulceration and swellings in the neck ; the patient was subjected to the same mode of treatment, and with the same success.

CASE III.

Mary F*****, aged twenty-one, consulted me for a scrofulous affection in her foot, which presented at first view, rather an appalling appearance : there was much general thickening of the periosteum and ligament, and many sinuous ulcers communicating with caries of the metatarsal bones : a sanious and very fetid discharge issued from the several openings ; the whole foot was twice its natural size, but the ankle-joint was unimpaired. She stated, that four years before, she had fallen down stairs, and sprained her foot, which began to swell immediately, and gave her slight pain for some time ; this, however, left her on suppuration taking place, and the matter being let out, about three months from the period of the original injury. She continued then under the care of a surgeon for eight months, but gradually getting worse, she obtained admission into

St Thomas's Hospital, where she remained nearly half a year; at the expiration of which time, she was told by the surgeon in attendance, that nothing further could be done for her, and recommended to return to the country. Here, again, she was attended by a medical man for six months; but the disease still gaining ground, she was sent to the County Infirmary, and continued there two months, when amputation at the tarso-metatarsal articulation was proposed to her. This, however, she refused to submit to; in consequence of which, she was discharged from the Infirmary. A few months after this event she applied to me; the disease was gaining ground, and her health suffering much from the symptomatic irritation. I put this patient upon the plan before specified; her general health began to amend; exfoliation of bone took place, and she gradually regained the perfect use of her foot. The crutches, which she had used for a considerable time, were soon discarded.

CASE IV.

A young lady from South Wales, who had

been under the care of two medical men for upwards of a year and a half, and who had been treated by them for incipient phthisis, as well as disease of the liver, had, when I saw her, a constant cough, which was attended with slight expectoration. At this period, (the spring of 1817,) she was under the influence of mercury, the use of which I directed her to discontinue: I examined the liver, and found no enlargement or induration of that viscus, and from the absence of many symptoms usually attendant on phthisis pulmonalis, I judged the lungs to be in a tolerably healthy state. She, however, complained of a sense of weight and fulness of the abdomen, which she said had gradually increased in size. On a farther investigation, I found the mesenteric glands were very much enlarged, although I could not detect chyle in the excrementitious matter. As soon as the mercurial action had subsided, I had recourse to cicuta, conjoined with an alterative dose of blue pill and other medicines usually employed in such cases, without any apparent advantage to the abdominal disease, but with decided amelioration of the cough, which in a short time she lost altogether.

Considering this however a case of Scrofula, I determined on treating it as such, and after the use of mercurial friction on the extremities, with the internal exhibition of the alkali for the space of a fortnight, a considerable decrease in the circumference of the body was perceptible, and her general health much improved. In addition to this plan, I produced eruptions over the whole surface of the abdomen, by means of the *unguentum antimonii tartarizati*; which external irritation was kept up for some time. At this period, one of the fingers of the left hand was discovered to be much larger than natural; but it had increased so gradually, that the young lady herself, did not consider it of sufficient importance, to inform me of the circumstance. It soon, however, put on all those appearances, which so distinctly mark scrofulous periostitis; and would, if I had needed a proof, have convinced me that the disease was going on internally. In this case, I had almost every difficulty to surmount, to effect a cure, from a naturally weak constitution, bad digestion, nervous irritability, with a constant persuasion, that "something dreadful would happen." In

the space of three months the abdomen was once more reduced to its natural size, her general health much improved and an absence of all the previous unpleasant symptoms.* The periostitis of the finger, which had advanced to suppuration, was now the only cause of uneasiness, and she expected, eventually to lose it. The alkali and mercurial friction were continued till the Autumn, at which period she became quite well, and continues to enjoy, up to this time, a better state of health than previously to the disease.

CASE V.

A young man, sixteen years of age, was sent to me with a scrofulous affection of the elbow-joint of the right arm, with a considerable enlargement of two fingers, which, for the space of three years, had resisted every means employed for its cure. At the time I saw him there were five ulcers situated late-

* It appears to me that the affection of the mesenteric glands in these cases, is essentially different from that which occurs in *tabes mesenterica*; for here the glands, though greatly diseased and enlarged, are not impervious: hence the non-appearance of the chyle in the excrement.

rally, and communicating with the substance of the joint, which was almost ankylosed. Several pieces of bone were thrown off from time to time, which process greatly protracted the cure. It was, however, effected within the space of a year and three-quarters, and the use of the arm completely restored.

CASE VI.

A man, aged twenty-five, after having consulted all the surgeons of eminence within thirty miles of his residence, and having, in consequence of a scrofulous affection of his right arm, been compelled to abandon his usual avocations, presented himself to me for advice. On examination, I found he had little motion of the elbow-joint, the arm being very much enlarged, both above and below it. There existed several ulcers, with extensive sinuses, but none immediately communicating with its cavity. The glands situated on the pectoral muscle of the left side, were also enlarged, and occasionally painful. This person had been in the state above described for nearly four years, without his general health being at all impaired. In this case

also considerable exfoliation took place. In fifteen months the sores healed, and the arm became as capable of being used as formerly.

In the last-named cases the complete cures were effected by the constitutional and local treatment recommended in this Essay, and in neither of them was I able to discover any thing like hereditary disposition; nor had it, if their own statements, or that of their friends, can be relied on (and I have no reason to suspect them), been preceded by any affection of the mesenteric glands.

CASE VII.

Three years ago I met by accident a gentleman, who was relating to me the deplorable state in which a daughter of his then was, from several parts of her body being diseased by Scrofula; he added, that she had been under the care of many eminent surgeons in town, without being at all benefitted by their advice. That, subsequently to this, he had consulted persons out of the profession, who, it was generally supposed, had succeeded in curing this and other diseases of a

similar nature, by secret specifics or long-continued friction, but their plans also had failed of success. From his description I was induced to solicit a trial, and accordingly saw her shortly afterwards. She was then twelve years old, with a constitution much impaired by the long continuance of this malady. Her spirits were, notwithstanding, good, nor was there any hectic fever then present. Two of her fingers had been amputated; the glands of the neck had often suppurated, and many unsightly cicatrices remained; but the principal seat of the disease, at this time, was in the ligaments and bones. The bones of the left elbow were in a state of caries, and the ligaments of the right knee very considerably thickened, but no ulceration had taken place there.

In this case I had much to contend with: the general health was considerably injured, although decided hectic fever had not established itself. I lost no time in adopting proper local treatment for the joints, at the same time administering the caustic alkali internally: this, together with a nourishing diet, good air and rest, greatly improved the state

of the general health, and I then ventured upon the use of the mercurial ointment ; and notwithstanding a rigid perseverance in these means, it was two years and a half before I had the satisfaction of seeing my patient restored to health. The affected knee became as useful a joint as the opposite one ; but the elbow was recovered, with only a partial ankylosis taking place. It is now two years since she became convalescent, and when I heard of her in April last, she continued quite free from her former complaints.

CASE VIII.

In the early part of last summer, a young gentleman applied to me with a scrofulous enlargement of two fingers of his right hand, which prevented him from closing the hand, and he was in consequence obliged to resign a situation he held in a merchant's house in the city. He had also two ulcers situated on the superior maxillary bone of the same side. For the cure of these he was placed under the care of a practitioner at Bromley, for the space of a year and a half, without the progress of the disease being at all checked.

During the above period, I ascertained that he had been taking preparations of bark and burnt sponge, with occasional purgatives. Having undertaken his cure, I am happy to add that his fingers were reduced to their natural size, so that he resumed his usual avocations by the middle of September, and in the space of two months more the sores on his face became perfectly healed. I have adduced this case, although a recent one, in illustration of what I have observed in this Essay, on account of its not being preceded by any glandular disease, and as not having had any scrofulous affection in the family within the recollection of its oldest members.

CASE IX.

A young woman, aged twenty-two, of fair complexion and general good health, came to me with a large tumor on the left side of her neck, extending almost from the cervical vertebræ, to a line drawn from the symphysis of the jaw, in which there was no perceptible fluctuation, but it presented the rocky and irregular surface, which so strongly marks scrofulous enlargement of glands. Others of

the cervical glands had, however, occasionally partaken of the suppurative process, and this swelling would also, I have no doubt, have participated in it, had the disease been left to nature. Various means were employed to reduce this enormous glandular mass, all of which proved ineffectual. In this instance I was tempted once more to try the effect of giving mercury internally, as it had been strongly advised by men of eminence in the profession ; but after a few weeks trial, I was compelled to abandon it, from its disordering the functions of the alimentary canal, and thereby inducing much consequent debility. After the constitution had recovered from the effects thus produced, I proceeded on the plan detailed in this Treatise, and succeeded in a speedy reduction of the swelling : by its continuance for a few months all the symptoms disappeared.

CASE X.

A gentleman consulted me respecting his son, a youth fourteen years of age, who, a twelvemonth before, had fallen down upon the side, and bruised the parts about the hip-

joint. Little attention was paid to this circumstance at the moment, but a few weeks afterwards an uneasiness was complained of at the seat of the bruise, and this was increased on moving the joint. The pain was at no time very severe, but a difficulty in performing the accustomed motion of the joint gradually supervened, till at length medical aid was called in; this led to the application of leeches, and giving the patient bark and acid to improve the state of his constitution. From the father's account, the above treatment certainly appears to have arrested the progress of the disease, at least for a time. In the spring the youth was taken to the seaside, without experiencing any amendment. It is true, that rest in the horizontal posture had been much neglected. When I saw the patient there was considerable wasting of the limb, and much pain in moving the joint, but without any thing to indicate that suppuration had taken place in its cavity; the superincumbent parts had acquired much thickening from the previous inflammation. In this instance the general health appeared to decline disproportionately to the extent of the disease that manifested itself; for, indepen-

dent of the exterior characteristics of Scrofula, the appetite failed, and his stools were tinged with morbid secretions from the liver.

In three weeks after I had enjoined the alkali and mercurial friction, the improvement, in every respect, was truly astonishing. From the pain experienced on motion of the joint, it should be observed that I had strictly enforced the necessity of my patient confining himself to the recumbent posture, which was rigidly observed. He is now quite recovered, excepting that on walking much he occasionally feels slight uneasiness, apparently originating from weakness of the parts.

CASE XI.

In the spring of last year, I was applied to by a lady, who had a glandular swelling under the angle of the jaw, on the left side; which, she said, made its appearance very gradually, unaccompanied by pain, although it continued to increase in size. As I understood from my patient, that other members of her family had been affected by Scrofula in

its worst forms, I did not hesitate to employ the alkali with mercurial friction, and uncombined with any local application, as the swelling appeared indolent, and not disposed to assume the suppurative process. The health of this lady was naturally delicate; but, at the end of three weeks, from using the above means, symptoms of amendment shewed themselves, by a diminution of the swelling; which, at the time I was consulted, was nearly as large as a small egg, with an irregular surface. In less than five weeks, it had totally disappeared; yet, I thought it prudent that the treatment should be gradually, rather than abruptly, laid aside; which was persisted in till the end of the eighth week from the commencement. Hitherto, no return of the disease has manifested itself, and the lady continues to enjoy good health.

CASE XII.

During my attendance on the subject of the last case, she requested me to visit a poor girl, aged fourteen, (the daughter of apparently healthy parents,) who laboured under some affection of the wrist. There was much puffi-

ness of the soft parts, with swelling about the joint, but little pain, except on moving it; which, in fact, she expressed her inability freely to accomplish. It had been coming on, I was informed, about a month, when she fell, and putting out her arm to save herself, received the whole weight of her body on the hand in question. The appearance and general health of the girl did not indicate struma; yet, from the sluggish character of the affection in the wrist, I was induced to imagine it was nearly allied to that disease. I determined, however, to confine the treatment to local applications in the first instance, and accordingly applied leeches, and afterwards a blister around the joint; apparently with some advantage. I then made use of pressure, by the means laid down in the preceding part of this treatise; and I was, at first, very sanguine of success; but, at this period, my patient's appetite became indifferent, and she complained of slight pain in the right side. I directed a dose of calomel and rhubarb, and in a few days, commenced my usual constitutional treatment, as the disease of the wrist had now assumed more of the true character of Scro-

fula, and I was apprehensive of destruction of the joint from caries, matter having formed in the soft parts; and I was fearful that the bones might become affected from contiguity.

Suffice it to say, that at the expiration of six months, the perfect use of the joint was restored, by adherence to the alkaline and mercurial treatment, assisted by local means.

FINIS.

